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=== SPARC GAP ===

SPARC

MAY 1966



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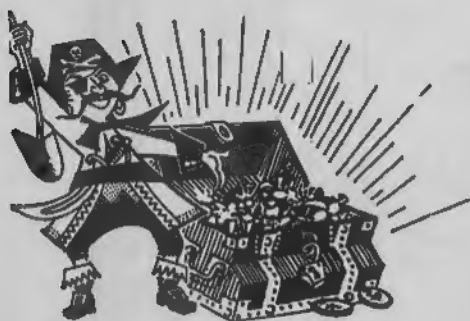
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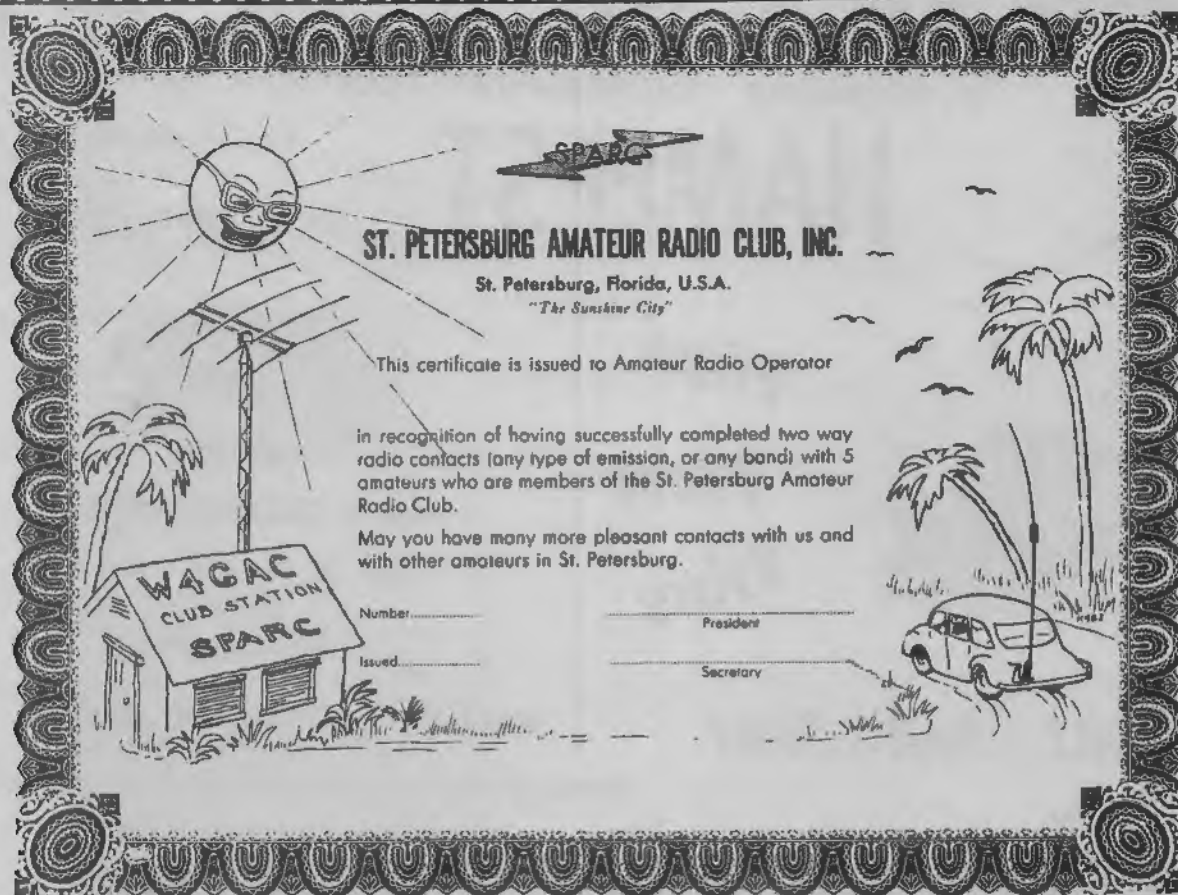
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## MAY MEETINGS - - - AT THE CLUB HOUSE

MAY 6

MAY 20

\* \* \* \* \*

On March 18, our speaker was W4MFF, Harold Grigsby, Communications Officer of Pinellas County Civil Defense. He is better known as "Cappy" W4SEA to those of us who are members of RACES. His talk concerned the make-up and procedure of Pinellas County C.D. - a very elaborate system for our protection, of which most of us were likely unaware, and for which the cooperation of all Amateurs is desired. Then W4FPC Mac, talked briefly about AREC and it's tie-in with RACES - also about Traffic and Traffic Handling.

At the following meeting, April 1, WA4TIC Keyth, showed colored movies taken on his trip to Alaska last summer, including pictures of the Alaskan earthquake, taken before, during and after. They were all indeed interesting, and our thanks to Keyth.

A recent Bulletin from ARRL reminded Amateurs of the FCC ruling re. interference - that deliberate interference is subject to penalties and that there have been suspensions of amateur licenses because of this. The FCC now further interprets its regulations, and below are quoted excerpts from an FCC letter concerning this.

"FCC GUIDELINES FOR THE AMATEUR SERVICE. Amateur operators are expected to anticipate and minimize interference. Failure to do so, indicates either ignorance of the practical realities - or a selfish lack of consideration of others. The following guidelines and considerations are presented.

Licensees already in operation should remember that no amateur licensee, group or network, has the right to the priority or exclusive use of a given frequency, nor may freedom from interference be expected. Exception is provided under the emergency provisions of rule 97.107. Common courtesy as well as good practice dictates that incessant or continuous non-emergency operation, so as to preclude others from operating is highly undesirable and unwarranted, and if wilful or malicious, could result in the imposition of punitive measures.

Sec. 97.125 provides: 'No licensed radio operator shall wilfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication or signal'. OBSERVANCE OF GOOD AMATEUR PRACTICE REQUIRES THE AVOIDANCE OF ATTEMPTING OPERATION ON A FREQUENCY WHERE IT IS OBVIOUS OR LIKELY THAT SUCH OPERATION WILL RESULT IN HARMFUL INTERFERENCE. ALL LICENSEES SHOULD AVOID THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES, SOME OF WHICH CONSTITUTE WILFUL INTERFERENCE FOR WHICH SEVERE PENALTY IS PROVIDED:

- A. Knowing and repeated operation on, or unreasonably close to a net frequency at times when the net is obviously active;
- B. Requesting or demanding protection of a net frequency at times when the net is inactive;
- C. Requesting or demanding protection of a net frequency over a long

Continued

Continued from page 1.

period of time in the absence of an emergency situation;

D. Calling, testing, or tuning on a frequency without first determining that the frequency is not already being used;

E. Carrying on an exchange of communications on two (or more) separate frequencies when there is no technical or operational necessity..."

We hear that WA4MSF George, has completed a storm guage similar to that which WA4CIL Dolph had built. Good work, but wish they could have warned us about the tornadoes the other day.

It is too bad the sun cannot always shine - that clouds do cross the horizon. Since our last issue of SPARC-GAP those clouds brought the passing of Jack's sister (W4OHJ) and Carl's mother (WA4GUZ). Our sincerest condolences to both. Also we were sorry to learn W4HUY - "Smitty" (an old time SPARC member) had had a stroke, and Naomi's mother (W4TDK) a heart attack. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Mark your calendar for May 20. At that meeting W4MOM Donald Wilfert will travel over from Cape Kennedy to give us a talk on the Space Program. With this topic being so much in the forefront today, his talk should be most informative, and all interested are invited to come. The more the merrier - we'd like to see a good attendance.

The VHF Club, at their meeting on Friday April 8, were glad to have WA4KKS, Sim as their guest speaker. He gave a fine talk on transformers, which was most enlightening and much appreciated. At their meeting in May - Friday the 13th - W4MOM Bill, will give a talk on Variable Capacitors.

Helping hands have reached out to a couple of members of the Amateur Fraternity. When K4HQA and K4IYN - Art and Jim - had their antennas laid low by the elements, W4HQA Jack, W4YU Hote and K4LYS Jim came to the rescue. Good work, fellers.

A further reminder - May 15 - PHILLIPE PARK - SPARC HAMFEST. You all come!

K4WXS

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE MAIL ALWAYS GOES THROUGH - EVENTUALLY

SPARC recently received a card from the W7TRU-Harle Radio Club of Harlowton, Montana, confirming contact with W4GAC 6-22-57 at 2326 M.S.T. on 14 Mc. sign R5,S6 for the 1957 Field Day. The stamp is gone although you can see where one had been placed on the card. Postmarks show Harlowtown June 11, 1957 and Pinellas Park February 5, 1966.



## S P A R C - G A P

COMING EVENTS

The feature event of the next meeting of SPARC, May 6th will be colored slides taken by Marie Cole during her recent visit to Scotland. This will be about one hour entertainment including commentary and promises to be of special interest. You don't often get anything FREE from Scotland, so this may be your big chance!

\*\*\*\*\*

SPECIAL NOTICE

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE MEMBERSHIP TO DISCONTINUE DELIVERY OF THE SPARC-GAP TO EX-MEMBERS WHO ARE NOW DELINQUENT IN PAYMENT OF THEIR DUES FOR 1966. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPARC BY-LAWS AND COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED JANUARY 1966. WE HOPE THAT THIS GENTLE REMINDER WILL BE AS HELPFUL TO YOU AS IT WILL BE TO SPARC.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our program chairman advises that he hopes to obtain a speaker from the Missile Center at Cape Kennedy for the meeting of May 20th. As arrangements are not completed, he does not know who the speaker may be or on which subject but anything from the Cape is sure to be interesting.

\*\*\*\*\*

SENIOR AMATEUR GROUP

No damage occurred to any of the SAGS antennas resulting from the recent tornado which passed thru the SE corner of St. Petersburg. Several of our group were active, relaying information and inquiries to surrounding locations from relatives in distant places, principally the Canal Zone, KZ5 land. Ed, W4HTH relayed 94 messages assisted by Willard, WA4QGU, and others.

During this session, Ed's beam indicator failed. He placed a mirror outside the shack window at an angle so the beam direction could be observed directly. Nice going, Ed! You can't stop Hot Time Harry! The virus bug bit Tom, WA4HNY while he had his whole antenna system down for modification. Too bad. He could not operate during recovery. Hobbs, VE3XN/W4 enjoyed several QSO's on 15 meters with East Africa and a solid 20 minute phone patch with Honolulu on 15.

Simmie, K4KKS relieved the anxieties of many by informing them of the exact locations of tornado damaged areas, where they were not concerned.

\*\*\*\*\*

We hope to see many of you at the Orlando Hamfest April 30 - May 1st and also at our own Hamfest May 15th at Phillippe Park.

SPARC is also contemplating some activity on ARRL Field Day, June 25/26. We would like to see more interest in this kind of activity so we can still have an excuse for being called a Radio Club. And, who knows? Some of you Yak-Yak hams may find that you still can do fingertalking.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't rest on your laurels; they're fine on your forehead, but make a mighty poor mattress.

## JOHN JOST - WA4IVE



John comes to SPARC via Reading, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Maryland, Cocoa, Florida, Gainesville, Florida and Jacksonville, Florida. However, he still calls Reading his home "because that's where I got started and went to High School." John, XYL-Joan, their four-month old harmonic, John Michael, and their black standard poodle, Tina, can be found at the QTH of 439 - 60th Avenue South.

The "Ham Shack" includes an all Hammarlund station, an HX50 exciter and an HQ170A receiver. The antenna is a 40/80 trap inverted "V" up about 40' at the middle. A beam or quad is the next planned addition for 20-15-10. The station is "on the air" usually around 3940 Kc. SSB or 40 c.w. John will be back on 15 c.w. as soon as an antenna for that band is installed.

Our Vice President earned his ticket in 1961 while on active duty with the Navy. However, his electronic background goes back to the time of the Korean War. He entered the Navy after graduating from High School, then attended Aviation Electronics Technician School in Memphis. His job was flying as radio/radar operator with the responsibility of maintenance for all electronic equipment on his P5M patrol seaplane.

John went to Martin Company in Baltimore, Maryland after the Navy and there worked on missile guidance systems and instrumentation on the Vanguard. He was sent to Florida by Martin to continue work on Vanguard instrumentation in the research rockets flight phase.

The University of Florida was John's next stop on his way to SPARC. From '58 to '63 he worked for a degree, with a year's interruption in '61 when he was called back to active duty.

John joined the Shell Oil Company in '63 and was in Jacksonville before being transferred to St. Petersburg in September of '64. His job title is "Dealer Salesman" which basically is centered around Shell Oil Company dealers, their selection, training and business counseling.

John's other interests cover the normal man's area: sports, motorcycles and dogs (his poodle "Tina" is a champion).

As a final note: John, as Chairman of FIELD DAY activities, wants to remind the Club that FIELD DAY is only two months away. "SPARC-W4GAC will be on the air on FIELD DAY."





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## SPARC-GAP

### A LITTLE CLOSER LOOK AT CODE

Over a period of nearly fourteen years of sending "on the air" code practice, a few not too widely known facts have been gathered by the writer which I think might be of interest to some of you.

First of all, lest we lose all of our readers who are "dyed in the wool" phone operators, let us remind you that it may soon be necessary for you to pass another code test at a speed higher than thirteen WPM in order to retain your present operating privileges. So read on, if for no other reason than possibly renewing your interest in an ability you were once so proud to have achieved.

Speed -- words per minute -- is based on the assumption that each word contains five characters plus the space at the end of each word. Therefore, thirteen WPM would produce 65 characters in one minute - counting numerals and punctuation marks as 2 characters. Let's get a little more technical. As all copy is not composed of 5 letter words it is a little more accurate to say that 13 WPM will produce 65 characters plus 12 word spaces or a total of 77 characters and spaces in one minute. This is the system the ARRL uses in checking your copy for the Code Proficiency Awards.

Now for a quick check on your sending speed. Just see how many letters you send in 12 seconds but not just any old letters. Use the word PARIS as that is one word containing the correct number of Bauds for a 5 letter word.

For you who are blessed with an electronic keyer, 5 seconds is all it takes to determine the speed your key is set for. Simply count the number of dashes it produces in 5 seconds and with correct spacing that number will be your speed in WPM.

A word of advice for those of you who are working on your 13 WPM for General. Concentrate on speeds only slightly in excess of 13 - say 14 or 15. Don't figure on "playing it safe" and getting your speed up so high that the 13 WPM sounds strange. Another word of warning: get all the practice you can with copy that makes sense, not code groups. I have met many code students who could copy code groups at 17 or 18 WPM but got lost at 13 on straight text.

How about a few Do's and Dont's for Novices?

- Do listen on your frequency before tuning up or sending CQ
- Dont send faster than you can receive hoping the other Novice will say Pse QRS - he may be an old time Morse man
- Do avoid the use of punctuation - it very rarely is necessary
- Dont send lengthy CQ's on an open band. 3 CQ's, your call 3 times. Repeat 3 times then listen for calls.
- Do forget the "Shave and a haircut two bits" routine
- Dont run words together -- well spaced code is a pleasure to copy
- Do give honest reports. It may cost you a QSL card but it may spare the other fellow from a citation and you would like him to do as much for you.

Space must be running short. So we will leave you with the hope that you all may have as much pleasure in your CW as I have.

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HISTORY OF  
ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

(7)

Tracing back amateur radio in St. Petersburg, we find only three or four hams in 1925; the 1927 Callbook lists twelve in St. Petersburg, out of 650 in the 4th District. In 1928, amateurs gained some recognition when W4APY-Don Geegan & other locals set up a radio link to Okeechobee for Florida Power. Local ham population here continued to grow with a total of 30 listed in 1930.

During 1933, John Fill, William Grogan, Garvin Combs-W4LF, George Slagle, Bob Cain-W4BQW, Don Geegan-W4APY & Phil McMasters-W4BCZ started meeting regularly in the radio shop of R. Preece, Jr., until W4BCZ purchased the radio shop & moved it to 9th St. & Burlington Ave. (across from Sears). W4DJI was issued as a shop call & code practice transmissions were made on the 160 meter band.

SPARC was finally organized in 1934, with W4BCZ-Phil, President; W4DBG-James Tippey, Vice-President; & W4CQZ-Harry Fishel, Secretary-Treasurer. Added to the membership was: W4CSJ-Bill Mangold; W4DWU-Bruce Blackburn; W4COW-Wesley Randles; W4DAP-Casey Ingram; W4DBP-Lowell White; W4LF-Garvin Combs; W4CZF-Ed Wallis; W4DBO-Howard Rees & many others as Club activity progressed. The Club affiliated with the ARRL & was instrumental in the appointment of W4BCZ-Phil as SCM, which office he held in 1934 & 1935. He was among those who attended the first Florida S. E. Division ARRL Convention, in Miami, with an invitation for the convention to be held next in St. Petersburg.

1935 marked the end of the "man's world" in the local amateur group, when the first local YL, Edith White received the call of W4DOM. SPARC sponsored a 160-meter phone net with the ringing title of "Meters of the Morning".

1936

SPARC was host to the S.E. Division ARRL Convention. President, Ed Wallis-W4CZF; General Chairman, Phil McMaster-W4BCZ & Entertainment Chairman, Wes Randles-W4COW were responsible for a capacity crowd enjoying a Beach Party at Treasure Island; a tour of WSUN & the Roebling Estates in Clearwater; Wouff Hong ceremonies & a banquet at the Suwannee Hotel.

1937

W4BCZ-Phil closed his radio shop so SPARC meetings were held at the homes of various members, with the XYLs furnishing refreshments after the meetings.

1938

Meetings continued & W4GAC-Lex Herron, of Marysville, Tenn. moved to St. Petersburg area & became interested in SPARC, becoming an active member.

1939

W4GAC-Lex's offer was accepted to use his home in Seminole for regular meetings. Activity picked up in the meetings & the XYLs' interest increased, as Bette (XYL of Lex) entertained them until the meeting was over & the boys joined the group for a social get-together.

1940

Lex purchased a large home at Sunset Beach, so the Club meetings moved over there, where they had a building complete with ham rig, furnished by Lex. The XYLs met in the house with Bette.

Compiled By Cathy Soehl  
W4BAV

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